MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question No. 462. Hon. Member absent.

*462. [*The questioner (Dr. Mohd. Hashim Kidwai) was absent. For answer,* vide *col.* 30-31 infra].

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 463.

Fund for drug de-addiction

*463. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a fund for drug de-addiction; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No separate fund has so far been created.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Sir, the answer to my question is only partially in the negative since the Minister has informed that no separate fund has so far been created. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Ministry plans to evolve a policy to mobilise separate funds for prevention of drug addiction as suggested by the U.N. team which visited Indian last year? I would also like to know whether the Government has provided any special funds for the State Governments and the voluntary organisations for the prevention and treatment of drug menace and if so, the details thereof.

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: Sir, I have replied to the main question that so far no separate fund has been created in the Ministry. But we are providing funds to voluntary organisations for creating awareness among the people about drug addiction, drug abuse, etc. We are giving guidelines to the other State Governments about drug abuse who are fighting against this menace on their own. When the U.N. team visited our country, they made a number of suggestions to meet the danger posed to the society by drug abuse and drug addiction. We have not yet decided as to how we will create the fund. However, after adopting the modalities and procedures for getting the fund from the U.N., a policy would be evolved. So far we have provided funds, as a grant, to different voluntary organisations for counselling centres, de-addiction camps at Delhi and other metropolitan cities and for publicity through mass media.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister what are the steps taken by the Ministry of Welfare and other concerned Ministries to check the increasing drug abuse in the country particularly in cities, in universities, among industrial workers as well as the affluent sections of our society and secondly the quantity of narcotics seized during the last two years and the names of the countries from which it was smuggled here and whether Government propose to seek cooperation from the neighbouring countries like...

MR CHAIRMAN: No, no, Madam. These supplementaries are outside the scope of the question, Yes, Mr. Kadharsha.

SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the extent of drug addiction is reaching an alarming proportion. Many international organisations like the World Health Organisation...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please reach the question. This relates to a fund for the purpose and you must direct your question towards the fund and not about...

SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Yes, Sir, I am coming to the fund.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Many international organisations...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are taking too long to reach the question.

SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Sir, we are not taking appropriate action in controlling the drug trafficking in the country. But I am surprised to hear from the Minister that no fund has been set up. I would like to know whether the Government does not think it to be a serious problem because it is said that drug-addiction has increased ten-fold in the country and yet the Government has not even taken any statistics on the drug-addiction because in the age group of 20 to 40 years, mainly youngsters are attracted to drugs and as a result our social and economic conditions are affected. So, I would like to know whether the Government will take a statistics and whether the Government will give assistance to rehabilitation centres for de-addiction.

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: Sir, as I have stated, we have not yet created a separate fund for drug de-addiction measures. However, we have given assistance to voluntary organisations. But the State Governments have to see that different measures are taken by which drug addiction is checked. I have already stated that the Ministry of Welfare is providing funds for organising camps to create awareness among the people. If you permit me, Sir, I can read out the details of the amount of money that we have given to different voluntary organisation. But, here, Sir, the problem is very serious and it requires awareness among all the people who are addicts and those who are not. So, here we need a defence similar to the one a country needs to protect itself from enemies as this is also an enemy to the society where the human values are degraded. This is an area, Sir, where everybody has to fight it out through different measures and the concerned Ministries like the Home, Finance, Health and my Ministry as a nodal Ministry is co-ordinating with all the Ministries to see that drug abuse and drug addiction in every section of the society is checked and only by such a measure will the society be protected from its enemies.

SHRI P. N. SUKUL: The hon. Minister has said no fund has been set up as yet for the purpose; yet, our Government, especially the Welfare Ministry seems to be quite alive to the problem of drug addiction. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister since the passage of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, what measures the Government has taken and what measures they propose to take for the treatment of addicts, and what provision has been made for the purpose.

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: Sir, the Act was recently passed by Parliament and we have got information that because of this Act, large number of seizures were made so that the menace could be tackled. The Welfare Ministry have to coordinate with all other Ministers which are concerned with it. I agree with the hon. Member that this menace is a danger to the society. During October 1986, when a U.N. team visited this country; they discussed this point with the Government of India to find out ways and means to control the drug abuse. We shall take necessary measures as the modalities are finalised an a separate fund created so that this problem which is found at every level, can be effectively, tackled. Though presently the fund is very limited, yet we have provided financial assistance to the extent possible to different cities especially Delhi. There has been a survey—not a big one—that we have undertaken by which we have come to know the actual requirement of the funds and we are trying to evolve

such a fund so as to provide substantial assistance to voluntary organisations. In this respect, cooperation of the State Governments is also needed and also the assistance of other concerned Ministeries like the Health Ministry. We are giving publicity through mass media, as well as we are taking up public awareness programme.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, unfortunately in the universities, the exalted place of higher learning, the problem of drug addiction has acquired a very menacing proportion and is in fact, eating into the vitals of our society. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what specific steps have been taken to meet the problem in the universities where students are aware about the ill-effects of drug addiction...

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question must relate to the fund; try to frame your question in that form.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: If the Government creates a fund it has to look to the problem which is there in the universities. That is what I would like the hon. Minister to tell us.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Funds should be provided to the universities also.

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: We have not been providing funds to the universities, However, we have requested the State Governments to see that the drug abuse or addiction among younger generation, and students in universities ond schools is checked. They are making all efforts But about universities, we are not aware as to which are the universities that are affected by drug abuse. Some study has been undertaken: we have got their views, but not a report in detail. On that basis I cannot say which universities come under this category. But since the students in universities are not illiterate people. they should understand what is right and what is wrong, in regard to drug abuse.

DR. H. P. SHARMA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, even after the long reply of the hon. Minister, I must still admit that I feel myself in the dark. On the one hand he says the problem appears to be serious. On the other hand, he appears to maintain that no funds are needed. May I ask, what is the Government's assessment of the quantum of drug addiction today and the profile of drug addiction in the coming years, or does he think, that this problem is negligible and it does not need any funds at least for the time being?

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: No, Sir. I have not said that no funds are needed for this. What I have stated is that we have got some funds from which assistance is being given to voluntary organisations. But we have not yet created a separate fund for this purpose. As I said, the U.N. team has suggested that a separate fund should be created, but unless we get assistance from the U.N. and the modalities are evolved and accepted by the Government, we will not be able to create this separate fund. If you permit me, I can furnish the details here of the seizures made. But I do not have the details of the survey report in regard to the extent of drug abuse in the society. The details of various drug seizures like heroin, opium, cannabis etc. are here. Over 2,850 kg. of drug were seized till 31st August, 1986. The largest ever seizure in the world of 602 kg. was made on 9-1-86 in village Talasseri. Then, a quantity of 150 kg. was seized in Bombay. The second largest seizure of 472 kg. was made from a truck in Bombay on 24-8-86. This shows that the various agencies under the Finance Ministry, Home Ministry etc. are aware of this problem and they are taking action in this regard.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.